

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 685

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Colonel Dennis J. Adams, Tennessee Army National Guard, for his dutiful and valiant military service.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom and safety, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by answering the call of duty, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably aid and assist our fellow Americans in times of great hardship and distress; and

WHEREAS, while the heroic deeds of Tennesseans have been extolled throughout the history of our State and Nation, thousands of our citizens continue the time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Tennessee Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, one such brave Tennessean is Colonel Dennis J. Adams who commanded the 278th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) during Operation Iraqi Freedom III; and

WHEREAS, numbering over 4,000 soldiers, the 278th Regimental Combat Team mobilized and deployed more soldiers than any other regimental combat unit in Tennessee since World War II; and

WHEREAS, the 278th Regimental Combat Team conducted Combat Operations in Area of Operations Volunteer, one of the largest areas of operation in Iraq, which covered over 4,500 square kilometers with a population of 1.4 million people; the 278th RTC also secured 150 miles of the Iraq-Iran border; and

WHEREAS, astutely led by Colonel Dennis Adams, the 278th RTC conducted over 15,000 combat patrols, six regimental operations, including Thunder Road, Kings Mountain, Taluate Nauro (Three Rivers), Tennessee Valley, Saber Rattle, and Tennessee Waltz, and over 220 company and squadron operations; and

WHEREAS, the 278th RTC captured or killed over 550 insurgents, maintained a captured-terrorist detention rate of 92 percent, the highest in their Division, captured 328 enemy weapon caches, cleared 372 unexploded bombs, uncovered one mass grave, and discovered 64 percent of the 288 improvised explosive devices they encountered, the most successful percentage in the 42nd Division; and

WHEREAS, under Colonel Dennis Adams's able command, the 278th RTC also trained and equipped over 10,000 Iraqi Security Forces, including the 1st BDE 5th Iraqi Division, the 3 BN 2nd BDE 4th Iraqi Division, the Diyala BDE Department of Border Enforcement, and Iraqi Police in the Area of Operation Volunteer; and

WHEREAS, the 278th RTC also secured seventy-four polling sites for the first free election in Iraq and transported ballots for tabulation; the 278th RTC also secured polling sites during the second free election in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, playing a vital role in the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq, the 278th RTC established four Joint Communication Centers throughout Area of Operation Volunteer, and completed over \$103,500,000 in relief projects and services to the Iraqi people; the 278th RTC reopened sixty-four schools, eight hospitals, and nine mosques and completed seventy-seven water projects, thirty-two road projects, and twenty-five electricity projects; and

WHEREAS, the 278th RTC's maintenance operation completed 3,353 work repairs on vehicles, had the highest maintenance readiness rating in Iraq, treated over 16,372 persons in its medical company, delivered over 4.8 million gallons of fuel, pumped and sanitized over 11.8 million gallons of water, and supplied 204,474 cases of bottled water; and

WHEREAS, achieving the Commander Intent of General Casey, Commander of Ground Forces in Iraq, the 278th RTC fulfilled its mission by inverting its area of responsibility from one and one-half Iraqi Army Battalions to four; the 278th RTC trained over 3000 Iraqis for the Department of Border Enforcement and secured border forts and traffic control points; and

WHEREAS, while conducting all of the aforementioned operations and projects, the 278th sustained minimal casualties with ten Tennesseans killed in action and seventy-nine wounded in action, a testament to the brave and capable leadership of Colonel Dennis Adams; and

WHEREAS, leading his troops by example, Colonel Adams traveled over 18,000 combat miles in tactical vehicles, circulated the volunteer battle field a total 138 days, and conducted 62 separate day Iraqi Sphere of Influence meetings, and he faced direct enemy fire, mortars, rockets, and improvised explosive devices; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Colonel Dennis Adams has received numerous medals, citations, and honors, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (6th Award), the National Defense Service Award (2nd Award), the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device, the Combat Action Badge, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Tennessee National Guard Distinguished Service Medal, the Tennessee National Guard Commendation Ribbon, the Tennessee National Guard Individual Achievement Ribbon with One Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Tennessee War Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Dennis Adams currently serves with distinction as the Commander of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment of the Tennessee Army National Guard in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, before serving in Iraq, Dennis Adams, a 1979 graduate of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, was a teacher and coach for the Washington County public school system; and

WHEREAS, a committed civic servant, Dennis Adams is a member and the past President of the Officers Association of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Dennis Adams is an active member of the Boones Creek Baptist Church, which he has faithfully served for many years; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Dennis Adams served with courage and gallantry in Iraq, and he deserves to be recognized for heroism in the line of duty and model citizenship in our American society; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Adams's courageous service stands as an enduring example of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued safety and security of our Nation during times of terrorism and war that threaten America's national security; and

WHEREAS, though we cannot adequately express our appreciation to Colonel Dennis Adams, it is most appropriate that we should honor him to the full extent of our ability, as he has made untold and innumerable sacrifices to assist and protect his fellow Americans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Colonel Dennis J. Adams, Tennessee Army National Guard, for his courageous and dutiful service as commander of the 278th Regimental Combat Team in Iraq, recognize his military service to his fellow citizens of the State of Tennessee and the United States of America, and wish him every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.